

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 remain pending in the application. Claims 2-5 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, leaving claims 1 and 6-15 for consideration. Claims 1, 6-8 and 10-13 have been amended, and claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the specification is objected to because of the noted informalities. In this regard the Examiner asserts that the recitation in the specification of the condensate water supplying duct (43) being “connected to a lower region of the condensing duct” (51) is not consistent with the Figures which show the supplying duct connected to an upper region of the condensing duct and feeding water via gravity down the condensing duct.

In response, the specification has been amended to correct the noted informalities by changing “connected to a lower region of the condensing duct” to -- connected to an upper region of the condensing duct-- in page 4, lines 6 and 7. Thus, the objection to the specification is now moot.

In the Office Action claims 1 and 6-15 are rejected under 35U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In this regard the Examiner asserts that in claim 1, while the supplying duct may be connected to the lower region of the chamber (52c), the condensate water supplying duct (43) “being connected to a lower region of the condensing duct” (51) is not adequately enable. Claims 1 and 6-15 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second

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paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In this regards the Examiner asserts that in claim 1, it is unclear how condensate water supplied by the supplying duct can be dispersedly dropped (presumably by gravity) when the supplying duct is connected at a lower region of the condensing duct, in claim 6 it is unclear what is meant by “inner circumferential surface”, in claim 10 the phrase “...between the chamber...” renders the claim indefinite, and in claim 13 the phrase “ribs reciprocally extending along a circumferential direction thereof” renders the claim indefinite.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to change “a condensate water supplying duct connected to a lower region of the condensing duct” to --a condensate water supplying duct connected to an upper region of the condensing duct--, claim 6 has been amended to delete “along an inner circumferential surface”, claim 10 has been amended to delete “between the chamber” therein, and claim 13 has been amended to change “are ribs reciprocally extending along” to --extend--. Thus, the rejections of claims 1, and 6-15 under 35 U.S.C. 112 are now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kim et al., WO 03/057968 (hereinafter “Kim”), and claims 1, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kamano, JP 2003-62384. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art references by further

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reciting a chamber having an expanded flow section area that is greater than that of the condensing duct, having one side connected to the condensing duct and another side connected to an inlet of the blower fan, and provided with a condensate water supplying opening to which the condensate water supplying duct is coupled at one side thereof. No new matter is introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, canceled claim 9 of Applicants' application.

A condensing apparatus of a washing and drying machine of the present embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, a casing that forms an accommodating space therein; a tub installed in the casing; an air duct having one end connected to the tub to thus introduce air into the tub; a blower fan that blows air along the air duct; and a heater that heats air of the air duct before being introduced into the tub. Further, the condensing apparatus includes a condensing duct having one end connected to a lower region of the tub and another end extending upwardly, a condensate water supplying duct connected to an upper region of the condensing duct to supply condensate water into the condensing duct, a condensate water dispersing portion provided with a plurality of dispersion holes formed along a circumferential direction of the condensing duct at spaced intervals and arranged at an outlet side of the condensate water supplying duct along a flow direction of the condensate water, to dispersedly drop condensate water supplied from the condensing water supplying duct, and a chamber having an expanded flow section area that is greater than that of the condensing duct, having one side connected to the condensing duct and another side connected to an inlet of the blower fan, and provided with a condensate water supplying opening to which the condensate water supplying duct is coupled at one side thereof.

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The references cited to support the rejections do not disclose such a combination of features. In particular, a chamber provided with a condensate water supplying opening to which the condensate water supplying duct is coupled at one side thereof is not disclosed in either of the applied references.

In the Office Action the Examiner appears to assert that an expanded flow section area that is greater than that of the condensing duct located between the condensing duct and the blower is disclosed in Fig. 13 of Kim. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Kim does not disclose or suggest a chamber 52c provided with a condensate water supplying opening 57 to which the condensate water supplying duct 43 is coupled at one side thereof, although Kim discloses the condensation duct 710.

In contrast, in the present embodiment, as amended in claim 1, the condensing apparatus includes a chamber 52c having an expanded flow section area that is greater than that of the condensing duct 51, having one side connected to the condensing duct 51 and another side connected to an inlet of the blower fan 47, and provided with a condensate water supplying opening 57 to which the condensate water supplying duct 43 is coupled at one side thereof.

Kamano does not also disclose the above-noted combination of features.

Thus, neither Kim nor Kamano disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1, and thus cannot anticipate at least claim 1 of the present application.

Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the above-noted remarks. Claims 6-8, and 10-15 are submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim and also based upon the recitation of other features of the

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present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

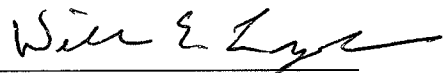
Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, to complete the record, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner Korean Application No. 2002-22544, which was filed on April 24, 2002 and which published on November 1, 2003 as Korean Patent Publication No. 2003-0084067 (copy attached). Applicants note that the present application is based on this document but does not claim the priority thereof, and this published document is not prior art since it published subsequent to the filing of the present application.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response,  
or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed  
telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Attachment (KR Publication No. 2003-0084067)

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